An Interview with Naoko Mori

by Maggie Caracappa

Naoko Mori, best known to Dragon Con audiences as Toshiko Sato in Torchwood, is making her first appearance at the con. She took a few minutes to answer some questions.

**Daily Dragon (DD):** You had a guest spot on Doctor Who before Torchwood. How soon after appearing on Doctor Who did you know about Torchwood?

**Naoko Mori (NM):** I think it was about 6 or 8 months after I filmed Doctor Who. Out of the blue, I got a call from Russell [Davies] and the team via my agent. I was told that Dr. Sato (who I played in Doctor Who) might be connected to Toshiko Sato at the beginning—but it was never confirmed until the we received the script of the last ep of season 2.

**DD:** What is something that you have taken away from your experience being on Torchwood and connected with Doctor Who?

**NM:** Firstly, it introduced me to a whole new genre that I hadn’t really watched/worked on before. Being introduced to and working on these shows, it’s really opened up my eyes, and my imagination—both as an actor and a viewer. What I also loved about Torchwood especially is that it was so many things. Drama, comedy, sci-fi, action, fantasy—all in one show.

**DD:** Toshiko and Gwen are both incredible characters who are fully formed and well-written. How important is it to you to have that kind of representation for female characters? Does it influence how you choose roles?

**NM:** Yes, absolutely. For me, it’s all about the writing and the characters. They don’t always have to be leaders and experts, but they’ve got to have some character and be interesting.

*Read the complete interview on the Daily Dragon website.*

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**New Parade Viewing Options**

The Dragon Con Parade will be available to everyone in the Atlanta area this year thanks to its first television broadcast. The CW channel 69 will tele-vise the parade live at 10AM Saturday. The parade will also be broadcast live on Dragon Con TV and via streaming membership.

For those who want to see the parade in person, the route begins at Peachtree Street northeast and Linden Avenue, near Emory University Hospital Midtown. The parade will continue south along Peachtree Street, pass by the front of the Hyatt, and turn left onto International Boulevard before turning left again onto Peachtree Center Avenue and finishing up behind the Marriott Marquis.

This year’s parade lineup is full. Parade participants can check in near Registration in the Sheraton Georgia Ballroom, Thu 10AM–10PM and Fri 9:30AM–8PM.

**An Evening At Bree**

The Tolkien Track’s annual celebration, with dancing and frivolity and featuring the music of Emerald Rose for the last time. Fri 8:30PM, Grand Salon West (Hilton).

**Geek Trivia for Charity**

Join the Video Gaming Track for braggart rights and a chance at immortality on the famous Bling Gnome Trophy. Donation of $10 per player requested. Fri 8:30PM, Savannah Ballroom (Westin).

**Klingon Karaoke**

You haven’t lived until you’ve seen Chancellor Gowron rock out to “Dancing Queen.” Fri 8:30PM, 204 FGH (AM2).

**Labyrinth Sing and Quote Along:**

Join in the fun with subtitles on-screen and a bag full of props, including bubbles for the ball, balloons for the Fireys, and whoopee cushions for the Bog of Eternal Stench! Fri 10PM, Imperial Ballroom (Marriott).

**Creature Karaoke**

Left your wand at home? Join the Fantasy Literature track to ensorcel the masses with the magic of a microphone. Bonus points for coming in costume! Fri 10PM, Regency V (Hyatt).

**Masked Ball**

It’s Dragon Con’s 30th year and what better way to celebrate than a Masked Ball! Come dressed to the nines on Friday at 8PM, Centennial II–III (Hyatt). Masks will be available for purchase at our Charity Events table just outside the room, with all proceeds going to this year’s charity, the Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency. Costuming Track is making special ones to contribute.

**Annual Zombie Walk**

The undead horde once again takes to the streets of Atlanta in search of tasty, tasty brains. Participants must be in a zombie or zombie hunter costume. Fri 8:30PM, Overlook (Westin).

**Cthulhu for America Rally**

Why vote for the lesser evil? Presidential Candidate Cthulhu will be making an appearance. Robes, signs and Cthulhu paraphernalia encouraged. Fri 9PM, Photo Stairs (Hilton).

**Zombie Prom: 30th Reunion**

Hundreds of the decomposing horde gather to shamble and shimmy the night away. Grab a quick prom photo, or even be crowned Prom King or Queen! Fri 10PM, Grand Ballroom East-West (Hilton).

**Check out the Parties/Events page on the Daily Dragon website for more parties and meetups!**
Schedule Changes

The following previously confirmed presenters will not be able to attend Drag-on Con 2016: Lynn Abbey, Courtney Alameda, Gabo Bautista, Jessica Call, Karen K. Christofferson, Keith R.A. DeCandido, Wendy S. Delmater, Karen Gillan, Burn Gorman, Willa Holland, Sarah Hunter, Don Maitz, Alex Mattsu, Eve Myles, Dean O’Gorman,比利 Pipher, Sarah Soderlund, Yale Stewart, Jonathan Strickland, Karl Urban, James Urbaniak, Janey Wurts.

ADDITIONS

Ian Harris will be on “Skeptack Kick Off 2016” Fri 10AM, 204-207 (Hil).
E.J. Stevens will be on “Murder, Mystery, and Monsters” Fri 11:30AM, Peachtree 1-2 (W).

“A Mon with Janina Gavankar” Fri 11:30AM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

Janina Gavankar will be on “Sleepy Hollow” Sat 4PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W); Sun 10AM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

Scott Vigue will be on “The Science of The Fly and Aliens” Fri 11:30AM, M103-105 (M); “Multiverse Media: Sliding Back to the Future and other Excellent Adventures” Fri 5:30PM, 204 (AM).

“Warmachine Mark III” Fri 1PM, Augusta 1-2 (W).

Brian Bradley will be on “Comedy Writing” Fri 2:30PM, Centennial I (Hy).

Aaron Fever will be on “Snydcast-a-Con with Ken Plume & Dakota Snyder” Fri 4PM, A601-AG02 (M).

JackMonkey FX will be on “Complimentary Zombie Makeovers” Fri 4PM, Overlook (W).

James R. Tuck will be on “Protect and Defend: Non-humans Saving Humans” Fri 4PM, Peachtree Ballroom (W).

Kirk Thatcher will be on “Tarscape: The Wonders We Saw” Fri 4PM, Imperial Ballroom (M); “Gonzo Quiz Show” Fri 10PM, Regency VI-VII (Hy).

Drew Powell will be on “Podcasting Past, Present & Media Track Kick-Off!” Fri 1PM, Centennial II–III (Hy).

“M2020: Corsets & Undergarments” Sat 11:30AM, Grand Salon East (Hil).

“Gonzo Quiz Show” Sat 1PM, 202 (Hil).

“I Hate the Dragon Con mobile app.” Sat 4PM, 201: Corsets & Undergarments (M).